DOE NEWS

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17 FIRMS RECEIVE DOE GRANTS TO HELP MOVE ENERGY EFFICIENT, POLLUTION-PREVENTING TECHNOLOGIES TO MARKET

To help develop and promote clean energy processes and technologies, the Department of Energy (DOE) today announced it will award nearly $7 million in grants to 17 U.S. companies in 14 states. The technologies were selected through the 1996 National Industrial Competitiveness Through Energy, Environment, and Economics (NICE^3) program. The NICE^3 grants, funded by DOE's Office of Industrial Technologies, support and encourage energy efficiency, clean production, and economic competitiveness in U.S. industry.

"These successes are hallmark examples of Department of Energy partnerships that contribute both to economic growth and to environmental protection," said Christine A. Ervin, Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. "It's ironic that the Republican Congress is poised to pull the plug on exactly the kind of research that produced these awards -- industrial technologies that save energy, prevent pollution, reduce material use, save money, produce high-paying jobs, and create more cost-competitive products."

Examples of winning technologies -- when fully developed -- will include a way of processing hazardous waste dust into saleable or useable products, and a chemical heat pump that will use up to 80 percent less energy than conventional water heaters and refrigerators, and reduce emissions by almost 90 percent. Another new process will more than double current textile processing rates by producing 75 percent less moisture than conventional finishing processes.

On May 29, 1996, at 6:00 p.m., DOE will host an awards ceremony, "Partnering for Industrial Innovation & Excellence in Energy Efficiency & Pollution Prevention Technologies in the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC. Invited speakers and presenters include DOE's Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Christine Ervin, Congressman Bob Franks (R-NJ) and Marty Meehan (D-MA), co-chairs, the Congressional Manufacturing Task Force, and Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Industrial Technologies, Denise Swink. Co-sponsors of the ceremony are the Congressional Manufacturing Task Force and the Northeast Midwest Institute. Stakeholders attending the NICE^3 awards ceremony include U.S. senators and representatives from the states of the winning companies; officials from federal and state government agencies; representatives from industry, and non-governmental organizations.

The NICE^3 initiative is a strategic partnership among state energy departments, companies and DOE. The grants are awarded on a cost shared basis, in which government funds boost the company's ability to develop promising technologies with high start-up costs. The state agencies serve as liaison between DOE and the companies and as manager of the grants.

The 1996 NICE^3 grantees are:

Accurex Environmental Corp., Mountain View, California, Amount of Grant: $332,953 - this project will use the grant to demonstrate the new chemical heat pump in an industrial production setting.

Whyco Chromium Company, Thompson, Connecticut, Amount of Grant: $390,400 - this project will the company to produce a commercial barrel design, develop a new manufacturing technique that will enable the commercial production of over 100 barrels each month, and to purchase equipment.

Catalytic Industrial Group, Independence, Kansas, Amount of Grant: $346,000 - this project will use the grant to demonstrate a commercial scale, 10 ton per hour wood drying unit.

Star Enterprise, Convent, Louisiana, Amount of Grant: $273,962 - this project will use the grant to develop an advanced on-line (computer-based) analysis system for the petroleum industry to demonstrate this process to prove its effectiveness.

Brittany Dyeing and Printing Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts Amount of Grant: $425,000 - the project will use the grant to demonstrate a new process for finishing fabrics to meet consumer demands more efficiently.

Thermo Trex, Waltham, Massachusetts, Amount of Grant: $425,000 - this project will use this grant to demonstrate the uses of high temperature materials that enable the use of copper rotors in electric motors.

Dow Corning Corporation, Midland, Michigan, Amount of Grant: $400,000 - this project will use the grant to demonstrate an integrated solvent recovery system that will reduce the use of solvents and encourage recycling of the chemicals on-site.

DPD Inc., Lansing, Michigan, Amount of Grant: $382,500 - this project will use the grant to perform the first industrial-scale application of a new stabilization process, which is expected to significantly improve the productivity of masonry plants.

Royaline Industries Inc., Forest Lake, Minnesota, Amount of Grant: $206,000 - this project will use the grant to advance their prototype equipment to a state of commercial readiness and implement a safe, efficient waste recovery system.

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Energy Research Company, Annandale, New Jersey, Amount of Grant: $425,000 - this project will use the grant to demonstrate a process that decoats aluminum scrap more efficiently and in a way that is less polluting than the current decoating technology used in both the secondary and primary aluminum industries.

Drinkard Metalox Inc., Charlotte, North Carolina, Amount of Grant: $425,000 - this project will use the grant to set up and demonstrate a pilot plant to test the production of saleable chemical products from the waste dust of the electric arc furnace process.

ALUMITECH Inc., Streetsboro, Ohio, Amount of Grant: $400,000 - this project will use the grant to establish an industrial-sized plant, optimize the process and commercially deploy the recycling technology.

Columbia Plywood, Klamath Falls, Oregon, Amount of Grant: $425,000 - this project will use the grant to develop and operate a system to demonstrate the feasibility of using waste heat to generate electricity in an industrial facility.

Ferro Technologies Inc., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Amount of Grant: $267,469 - this project will use the grant to demonstrate the new galvanizing process under industrial-scale production conditions.

ChemStone, Greenville, South Carolina, Amount of Grant: $418,000 - this project will use the grant to demonstrate a surfactant (a chemical used to cook wood chips) that more completely breaks down wood chips.

Venture Alliance, Knoxville, Tennessee, Amount of Grant: $393,029 - this project will use this grant to commercially develop the ink technology that was developed by Mr. Prasil (a long-time printing industry innovator).

Covol Technologies Inc., Lehi, Utah, Amount of Grant: $225,000 - this project will use the grant to demonstrate the integration of briquettes into the steelmaking process in a steel mill.

Three other categories of awards were also presented at today's ceremony. Commercialization Achievement Awards went to four past NICE^3 grantees whose technologies have since been commercialized: Pegasus Technologies, OH; Beta Control Systems, OR; Telsonics USA, NJ; and Caterpillar Inc., IL. Management and Communications Awards were given to four states that submitted outstanding proposals that subsequently won NICE^3 grants: Ohio, Massachusetts, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Technical Support and Communications Awards were given to six DOE Regional Service Office executives for their work with the states and industry on the NICE^3 program.

DOE announced at the ceremony that its NICE^3 program and Industries of the Future program will soon merge, and the textile industry will be added to the seven industry teams already included in Industries of the Future.